



FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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DIARY DATES

Fri 24th April — 10am-2pm	Parent group (Puberty workshop)
Fri 8th May	Bank holiday
Monday 1st June	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Weds 10th June 2pm	Parent group (SCERTS)
Weds 24th June	Sports day
Thurs 25th June	Sports day
TBC	Sports day
Fri 3rd July	Transition day
Mon 6th July— 3.45pm	Meet the new teacher—parents evening
Thurs 9th July—10am	Secondary summer performance
Thurs 16th July—10.30am	Secondary prize-giving

SPRING 2020

A MESSAGE FROM PEGGY...

Welcome to the Spring 2020 newsletter. In this newsletter you can read about World Book Day, updates from some of our classes and Fundraising updates. Sadly, due to the current COVID-19 crisis, some of our scheduled events have not been able to take place this term.

I would like to thank our amazing staff for their commitment to the School during the current challenging situation. For those who have been unwell/self-isolating, I wish you a speedy recovery.

Over the past week class staff have enjoyed interacting with parents/carers and pupils through Facebook videos and posts. We have had positive feedback from parents/carers regarding the regular communication by email/telephone from teaching staff. I know that staff are looking forward to seeing the pupils, once we can all return to School safely.

This term we welcomed the following pupils to the School; Chloe, Daniel, Harry, Bradley, Archie and Diesel.

The following staff have joined us this term; Kathleen, Courtney, Samantha, Katie, Jennifer, Kirstie and Laura have joined us as Teaching Assistants, Anthony has joined as Grounds Worker, Lorraine and Zena have joined as Lunch Time Supervisors and Sarah has joined as Occupational Therapist. We would like to wish them good luck in their new roles and we hope that they will be very happy at Five Acre Wood School.

Congratulations to Emma Athwal, one of our Deputy Head Teachers, on the safe arrival of her baby, Leo, in March.

You can find online safety factsheets on our website with information about helping to keep your children safe online. These can be located in the Online Safety section under the 'About' tab.

If you have not already done so, would you please register with ParentMail. This is an effective way for the school to notify you of information. Please email the school office if you wish



to register but have not been able to do so.

I would like to remind parents/carers to inform us of any changes of address, mobile numbers etc. and in the interest of your child's health and safety, it is your responsibility to ensure all information on Healthcare Plans is kept up to date.

Please note that diary dates shown in this newsletter may be subject to change, depending on direction from the Government regarding schools being able to fully re-open.

Wishing you all an enjoyable Easter break and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Peggy

TRANSPORT UPDATE

We have made some recent changes to the car park and there are further changes planned for this year. We have taken on board Parents' comments and put steps in place to ease the congestion of the car park facilities.

During the February half term contractors reorganised the main large parking area, adding extra spaces, which has increased the amount of staff that can park on site, whilst trying to protect parent/carer parking. In addition to this

a 'through road' has been created in order to keep the traffic moving as smoothly and as safely as possible. Transport vehicles now have their own section which has helped to ease transitions at the start and the end of the day, with a clear protocol of how this service operates.








Future plans are to include speed humps to slow the traffic down whilst on site, clear signage so that visitors, staff and parents know exactly where they can

park during the day and even the possibility of a 'lollipop' person to assist parents/carers when crossing the road. This will be in addition to the zebra crossing on site. If any parents/carers would like to volunteer for the lollipop person position, then please contact me via the school office email address - office@five-acre.kent.sch.uk











Sarah Eiffert
Logistics Manager

FIVE ACRE WOOD SCHOOL'S AIMS

During These Ever Changing Times We Will....

 <p>Meet Needs</p> <p>Focus on how we can best meet the needs of pupils who are safer at School</p>	 <p>Belong</p> <p>Foster a sense of belonging and identity, as well as an understanding of the 'bigger picture'</p>	 <p>Safe And Caring</p> <p>Provide a safe, caring and welcoming environment for these pupils and staff</p>	 <p>Manage Change</p> <p>Help our pupils, families and staff to feel as supported as possible</p>	 <p>Home Support</p> <p>Provide families with ongoing high quality home based learning activities and free School meals (as required)</p>	 <p>Clear Communication</p> <p>Communicate effectively with all of our stakeholders</p>
 <p>Resources</p> <p>Ensure that we have all the resources we need, and that we manage them effectively and efficiently</p>	 <p>Multi-Agency Approach</p> <p>Adopt a multi-agency approach and value the contribution of all partners</p>	 <p>Embrace Change</p> <p>Respond positively to change</p>	 <p>Relationships</p> <p>Consolidate our existing strong relationships with parents, carers and families</p>	 <p>Community Support</p> <p>Gain the support and involvement of the local community</p>	 <p>School To School Support</p> <p>Provide support to other Schools where possible</p>

We Will Achieve This By.....

 <p>Distributed Leadership</p> <p>Strong in-depth distributed leadership and staff empowerment across the School</p>	 <p>Teamwork</p> <p>Working together towards our agreed aims</p>	 <p>Seeing 'The Big Picture'</p> <p>Ensuring that we take full account of our pupils individual needs, in both the short and longer term</p>	 <p>Goal Setting</p> <p>Setting and monitoring challenging, realistic and achievable targets</p>	 <p>Technology</p> <p>Making best use of technology to support communication</p>
 <p>Continuous Improvement</p> <p>Focusing on continuous improvement</p>	 <p>Partnerships</p> <p>Developing strong partnerships with parents / carers and the wider community</p>	 <p>Staff Support</p> <p>Ensuring that staff benefit from a strong support network</p>	 <p>Sharing Expertise</p> <p>Sharing our expertise to support other learning communities</p>	 <p>Celebrate Success</p> <p>Celebrating our successes</p>

ROYAL HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY SCHOOL GARDENING AWARD—LEVEL 5

We are delighted to share the brilliant news that at the start of March, pupils at the Five Acre Wood Snodland site received their Level 5 Royal Horticulture Society School Gardening Award. This is the highest level of the reward scheme which has helped them to turn their garden into a valuable learning resource.

Achieving this award has involved 3 years of hard work, dedication and commitment from our pupils. Throughout this time they have learnt so much and have had fun working through all 5 levels.

Pupils grew plants from seeds and then using their home grown vegetables they put on an event called 'The Big Soup Share' where they were able to showcase their cooking skills and produce a variety of delicious soups. These were tried by pupils, visitors and staff. In total, 70 bowls of soup were eaten and enjoyed! Pupils have been outside in all weathers, making sure that their garden and plants were well looked after.

The 'RHS Five Star Gardening School' plaque is now proudly displayed in the reception area at the Five Acre Wood Snodland site.



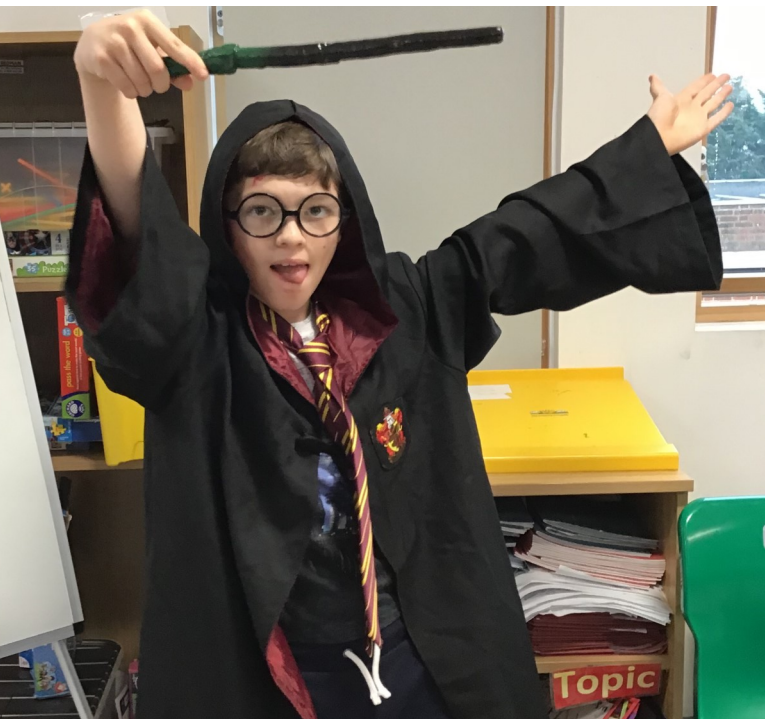
Well done!



WORLD BOOK DAY

Staff and pupils alike enjoyed coming into school dressed as their favourite characters from books on 5th March for 'World Book Day'.

We enjoyed seeing so many different characters around the School and there were some very creative costumes. These included characters from Matilda, Harry Potter, Cat in the Hat, The Incredibles and Where's Wally?



CLASS UPDATES

PRIMROSE CLASS

Primrose class had a wonderfully creative day which was based around the theme of 'The Wizard of Oz' for World Book day on 5th March.

It was great to see the pupils who dressed up on the day. In class there was a very fetching tin man and a courageous lion. There were also two beautiful Dorotheys and we must not forget our very own Toto the dog (who looks very much like Snowy!)

Staff made a yellow brick road that the pupils travelled across. Pupils explored a wicked witch's magic

potion and they listened to the music soundtrack from the film.

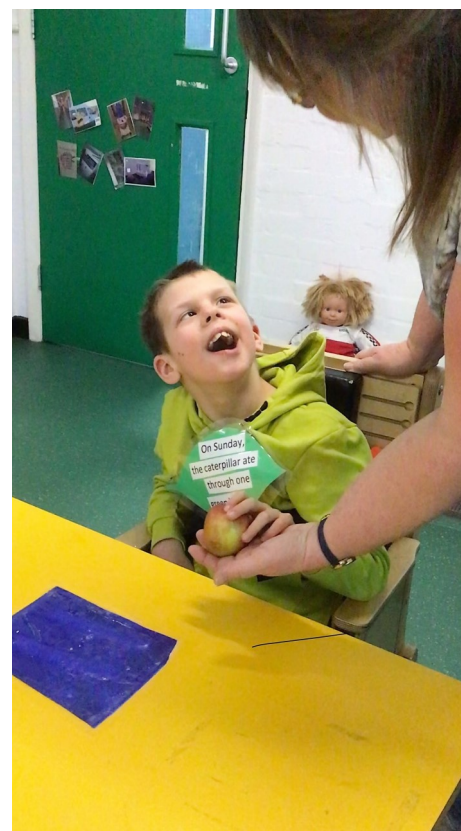
Staff created a swirling tornado that the pupils turned on with a switch – it nearly blew them all away! They also created stunning tissue paper poppies and a great day was had by all!



SNOWDROP CLASS

Here are some photos of Snowdrop Class enjoying their World Book Day activities. Their chosen book for the day was 'The Very Hungry Caterpillar' by Eric Carle.

Pupils tasted the different foods from the story, such as apples. One of the pupils was dressed as a leaf and another pupil told the story of 'The Hungry Caterpillar' using her symbols.



CLASS UPDATES

TURTLE CLASS

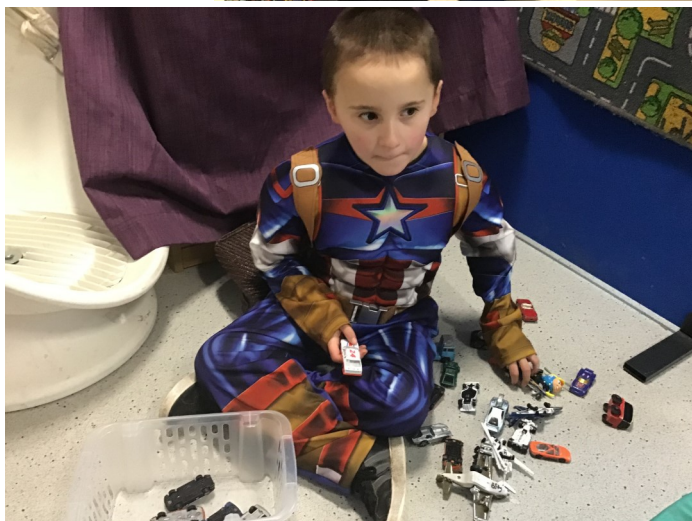
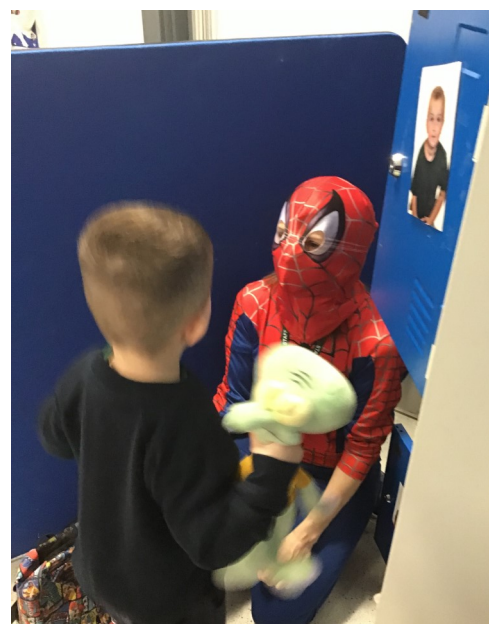
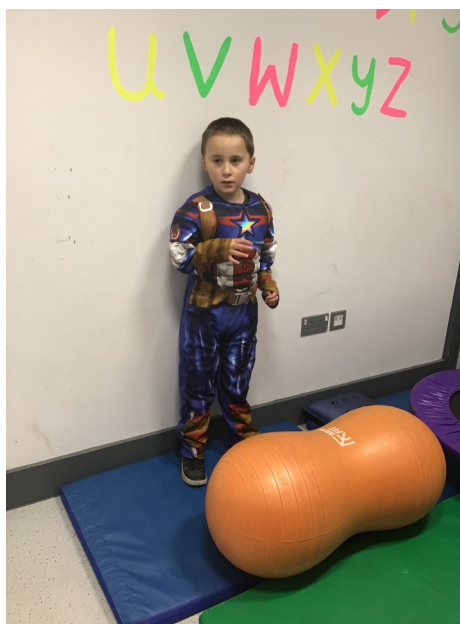
Turtle class have been working on following instructions through practical maths cooking lessons.



They made fruit salad, cakes, biscuits, healthy banana ice cream, slime, play doh, salt dough and they made sandwiches independently!

BUTTERFLY CLASS

EYFS classes organised a 'superhero day' as part of their superhero topic. They participated in lots of fun superhero activities throughout the day! Everyone looked amazing and staff enjoyed joining in.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

SUNKEN TRAMPOLINE AND MOBILE SENSORY UNIT



With funding just secured from the True Colours Trust and the Kent Community Foundation as well as our own internal fundraising efforts, we are ready to start both these projects!

Thank you so much to everyone who has donated. We will be getting the trampoline installed and the mobile sensory unit purchased as soon as we can.

PONIES AND GOATS



Zara and Bubbles - the ponies, along with Henry and Nigel – the pygmy goats, will be moving onto our School site really soon. We have an army of volunteers all set to help out with their care and will gradually be introducing the animals to our students over the coming weeks and months.

It's all a waiting game right now, but the moment we can press the "GO" button again, our lovely four-legged friends will be joining Sandy and Snowy, the therapy dogs, at the Loose site!

KIMBERLY-CLARK UPDATE

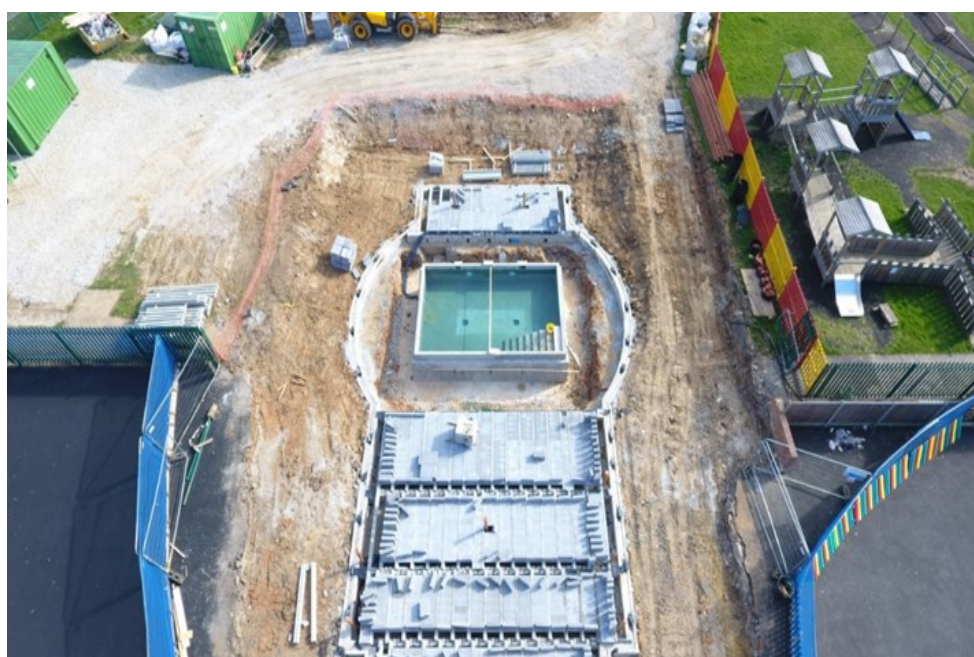
A brief postponement of the plans...that's all. They are still bursting with energy and enthusiasm and plans for the incredible re-vamp and improvement to four big areas of our school. Be in NO doubt...this WILL happen. Our sincere thanks to them.



HYDROTHERAPY POOL

Work was progressing at the scheduled pace on our amazing new hydrotherapy pool. Right now, we have had to cease work on the site, but as soon as we can, work will be re-started. Clearly we anticipate a delay to the opening date of 11 September, but we are assured by our fabulous contractors, that as soon as it is safe to do so, they will be back on site.

The pool has been left filled with water to test the initial concrete layer for any leaks! On a beautiful sunny day, it almost looks inviting! Keep up to speed with photos and progress on our Facebook page.



FUNDRAISING UPDATE

KENT MESSENGER CHARITY PARTNERSHIP

The KM are LOVING having us as their charity partner! We are so grateful to our designated reporter Katie Heslop who has written some wonderful pieces which have been published both in hardcopy and online. They are highlighting our campaign "Buy-a-brick" through which we are aiming to raise £50,000.00 towards the cost of buying a house in Snodland. Our older students will be able to develop their life skills using the house as a valuable learning resource.

Please put 20th November 2020 in your calendar as the date of the KM Big Quiz! We'll be looking to put together at least 2 teams for this event which is their biggest fundraiser of the year!



UPCOMING EVENTS

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We are looking (hopefully) far enough into the future to tell you the date of our late summer fair. As we are back to school right at the very beginning of September, we have brought the fair forward by one week and it will be held on Saturday September 19, 2020. We have also moved the time forward by an hour as the committee felt that more of you would be able to enjoy the delicious barbecue if we ran the fair from 12 noon – 2pm.

All things being equal, we will have another fabulous event with all your favourite stalls and games and rides....



Another event that was postponed but is now re-scheduled for October, is the Brighton Marathon. We have two "super-parents" running in support of our school. How about you think about running a marathon (or a half?) or doing some kind of sponsored event for us? We can give you all the support you need – a fabulous fundraiser t-shirt, balloons, banners, collection tins and of course lots of shouting about you on our Facebook page and website!

ONLINE SHOPPING

As you can't go out much and maybe shopping is a far more online experience these days, don't forget to register with EasyFundraising and Amazon Smile – choosing Friends of Five Acre Wood School as the charity you want to support – THANK YOU!!!

STOP PRESS

Fundraising has taken a tiny backseat in the last week of the Easter term and "Facebook Manager" is the new, almost full time role!

We realise how important staying in touch with each other is and so during the term when we can't all be together at school, we are posting pictures, stories, videos and messages all over our Facebook page.

If you want to share anything – please email it to me and I will ensure it is posted. You know the address, but just a reminder...
ameaders@five-acre.kent.sch.uk

Happy Easter! Stay healthy....Stay safe....Stay At Home.

Alex



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Term Dates with Diary Dates 2019/20

Term 5

Tuesday 16 th April 2020	N/A	First day of term 5
Friday 8 th May 2020	N/A	Bank holiday (pupils and staff not in school)
Friday 22 nd May 2020	N/A	Last day of term

Term 6

Monday 1 st June 2020	N/A	Staff training day (pupils not in school)
Tuesday 2 nd June 2020	N/A	First day of term 6 for pupils
Wednesday 24 th June 2020	TBC	Sports day
Thursday 25 th June 2020	TBC	Sports day
TBC	TBC	Sports day – FAW Snodland
Friday 3 rd July 2020	All day	Transition day
Monday 6 th July 2020	3.45-6.45pm	'Meet the new teacher' parents evening
Thursday 9 th July 2020	10-11.30am	Secondary summer performance
Thursday 16 th July 2020	10.30am	Secondary prize giving
Wednesday 22 nd July 2020	9.30-3.15pm n/a	Woodstock Last day of term



NOTE TO PARENTS/CARERS REGARDING MEDICATION

To ensure that your child is given the most current prescribed medication of the correct dose and at the right time, please read these guidelines:

1. Please ensure that all medicines sent into school are in the ORIGINAL pharmacy containers/packaging clearly labelled with:

- Your child's name
- Name of prescribed medication
- The dosage and frequency of administration
- How medicine should be given, e.g. by mouth, via feeding tube
- Date medicine was dispensed
- Expiry Date

Any nurse will have the right to refuse the administration of medication to your child if this information is not clearly shown on the label.

2. Please inform the school nurse of any change to your child's regular medication, including alterations to dose, frequency or medication being stopped as advised by a doctor. These alterations need to be confirmed in writing by the prescriber. **We cannot accept verbal alterations and will be unable to give an amended dose unless we have the medication in its original contained with the correct information printed on the label or receive the changes in writing from the prescriber.**

3. If your child is prescribed emergency medication (Diazepam/Midazolam for epilepsy or Anapen/Epipen for allergy) please inform the school nurse immediately. Further information from your child's doctor will be needed regarding when the emergency medication should be given and this will be kept in school so all staff are aware of what care your child needs in an emergency.

4. Please ensure there is a sufficient supply of all the medicines your child needs whilst in school. We will contact you to advise when we are running low.

5. When sending in medication, it must not be put in your child's bag. Instead, it should be handed directly to a member of the class staff. If your child comes into school by taxi, the medication should be given to the escort who will then hand it to a member of the class staff when they arrive at school.